

CYA

California Youth Authority

Victims Edition
April 2000

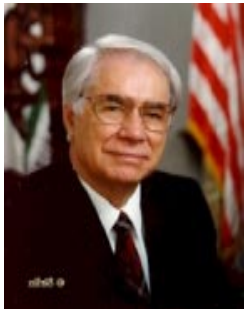
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Today

Over 50 Years of Service to the People of California

Secretary's Message

By Robert Presley
Secretary
Youth & Adult Correctional Agency



I would like to recognize the efforts of all the Youth Authority (YA) staff that make victims an integral part of our mission.

The YA has embraced a leadership role by including victims in its programs, and by making every effort to assist them.

The YA's "Impact of Crime on Victims" curriculum is nationally known for its principle of restorative justice.

It is very clear that wards who learn about the impact their crimes have had on their victims come to understand that they must work hard to restore their communities, their victims and themselves.

When I look through the issue

of *CYA Today* dedicated to victims, I am impressed with how sophisticated YA has become in assisting victims of crime. I am especially impressed by the countless hours of work put forth by staff and wards throughout the state to generate donations for victim organizations. This demonstration of what staff and wards can accomplish – together – is a credit to the dedicated staff working for today's California Youth Authority.

I applaud the Youth Authority's vital role in developing awareness and service to crime victims – something that other states throughout this nation have emulated. Working together, Youth Authority staff and wards are creating an environment that fosters positive attitudes, personal growth – and accountability for one's actions.

Let's all move forward – together – right now, and embrace the theme for the 20th Annual National Crime Victims' Rights Week, "Dare to Dream."

Message from OPVS

Celebrating 20 Years

By Kip Lowe
Deputy Director, OPVS

National Victims Rights Week – 2000, "Dare to Dream," the 20th anniversary. Certainly, all of us in the Department of the Youth Authority have reason to celebrate! As we participate in this significant event, the Youth Authority is recognized across the nation as the model for victim services in a juvenile correctional agency! Quite an accomplishment for the department that, under determined and visionary leadership, dared to dream and worked hard to balance the rights of offenders and those whom they victimized. And it is with that same pioneering commitment and vision that I remind you that our work has only just begun.

I challenge you not to rest on our many accomplishments, but collectively and aggressively work to realize the dream of **Sharon English**, retired deputy director of the Office of Prevention and Victims Services (OPVS), that

the "rights of victims of juvenile offenders...mirror the rights of victims of adult offenders" and that all victims, including staff victims, are treated fairly and responsibly by our department.

During the last decade, the number of victims entered into our database and participating in our system has increased dramatically to over 18,000! Like the phrase, "build it and they will come," since the department has actively invited the participation of victims in our system - - they have come! The absolute number of victims exercising their rights has stressed our resources and policies. The impact is felt in all areas: Institutions and Camps, Parole, the Youthful Offender Parole Board, Administrative Services, and OPVS. This increase requires focused attention, interbranch planning, and new direction.

As the newly appointed deputy director of OPVS I would like to share my vision, my "dream" for the next decade, a dream that can be divided into three areas: accountability, victims

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National Crime Victims' Rights Week

April 9 to April 15, 2000

Gov. Davis Appoints New Director

Gov. **Gray Davis** appointed **Jerry L. Harper** director of the Department of the Youth Authority on March 27. Harper will take over the reins of the department on May 1.

Mr. Harper was with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department for 37 years from 1962 to 1999 rising to the rank of undersheriff for six years. He is an executive board member of the Los Angeles chapter of the Volunteers of America. Mr. Harper earned a bachelor of science degree from California State

University at Long Beach and a master's degree in Public Administration from California State University at Los Angeles.

The governor also appointed former chairman of the Board of Prison Terms **Jim Nielsen** to the Youthful Offender Parole Board.

Mr. Nielsen was on the Board of Prison Terms from 1991 to 2000 serving as its chairman from 1993 until this year. Nielsen served in the State Senate from 1978 to 1990.

Dedication 2000

Sharon English, Her Leadership Set Tone for Those Who Follow



For many victim advocates in California the name **Sharon English** is synonymous with victims rights. For years she has tirelessly

dedicated herself to improving the lives of victims of juvenile crime and ensuring that they have a voice in the criminal justice system.

Ms. English, deputy director of the Office of Prevention and Victims Services retired in January, but her legacy and hard work lives on thanks in no small part to her leadership in the field of victimology.

She is very much missed by her colleagues, friends and fellow victim advocates in the California Youth Authority. Her legacy of ensuring that victims rights were not ignored, and her commitment to victims set a standard for this department.

This year's theme of the National Crime Victims Rights Week is "Dare to Dream." This theme is an excellent reminder of how Ms. English dared to

dream of the day that the Youth Authority (YA) would become the national leader in providing victims services in the juvenile corrections field.

Under her leadership, the YA's Victims Service Division (VSD) and Impact of Crime on Victims Program have been cited as national models. Over the past eight years, the YA's VSD has expanded from three to 10 staff. Former YA staff are coming back and helping as retired annuitants and student interns eager to learn about the field of Victim Services are eager to help the division.

With the increase in staff and resources, the YA has provided outreach and services to nearly 18,000 victims.

The 2000 *CYA Today* Victims Edition is dedicated to Ms. English for being a mentor and role model to many YA staff and victim advocates. For those individuals who have worked alongside Ms. English throughout the years, you are fondly remembered as the "Old Buffalos for Victims Rights." The "New Buffalos" must share their dream and continue the fight.

From the Office of Prevention and Victims Services: "**Sharon you are greatly missed!**"

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Character Education in the YA: A Shared Vision, a Common Mission

Character education, that is changing the minds and hearts of juvenile offenders from criminals to law abiding, productive citizens, is not something simply taught in a classroom, it requires the commitment and efforts of everyone in the Youth Authority.

“Character education is not a course students take and teachers deliver somewhere in a classroom. Character building is not the sole responsibility of correctional youth counselors either. Small groups, large groups, and resource groups cannot address all the needs of offenders,” said **Fabienne Farmer**, assistant principal for Character Education in the California Education Authority.

“Character education is everybody’s responsibility. From the courts to the clinics, from the institutions to the camps, from the college classes to the secured living units, from the Central Office to the Parole Offices, to the streets and communities of California, character is being built and each of us is a practitioner,” she said.

A large number of offenders incarcerated in the YA have committed violent crimes and have shattered the lives of many innocent people. But, as employees of this department, everyone should believe in “people’s ability to grow and change,” as the department’s mission statement reads.

“All branches of this department are partners in fulfilling the mission of the California Youth Authority,” Farmer continued. “Every day, we experience a renewed sense of commitment to the mission: to empower youthful offenders to become responsible, law-abiding, and productive citizens, decent spouses, caring fathers and mothers, and honest neighbors.”

Along with building character a ward must learn to accept responsibility for his or her actions and the impact their criminal actions have on their victims and the community. This is also a key element of the character education process.

“Victims of crime are not alone. We support them on a daily basis by working on changing offenders’ behavior and building character,” Farmer said.

“We are thankful for their relentless willingness to volunteer their time and share their stories in the Impact of Crime on Victims classes throughout the institutions. Victims of crime motivate many offenders to throw their masks, ‘climb’ out of their state of indifference, and show some compassion, some empathy, and some humanity... ” which signals the beginning of a metamorphosis,” she said.

While offenders are in the care of the YA, it is the responsibility of staff to hold them accountable for their actions by constantly giving them opportunities to “redeem themselves,” Farmer said.

The biggest challenge for staff is to create a need and a desire in each offender to break away from the subculture to which he or she belongs. The alternatives that they are offered must be appealing, healthy, constructive, and rewarding if they are expected to break away from the only lifestyle they have ever known.

They must feel the need to change, and see the advantages associated with belonging to the mainstream culture.

The YA has embraced the challenge with a renewed sense of commitment, duty, responsibility and power. Senate Bill 775, signed by former Gov. **Pete Wilson** in 1995, requires that “the department’s education programs focus on value-based character education, emphasizing curriculum leading to a crime-free lifestyle...”

The legislation gave the various branches of the YA the opportunity to become partners in identifying the best approaches to educating and “treating” young offenders and producing crime free citizens.

In December 1997, a Transfer of Knowledge Workshop, presented by the Education Services Branch, brought together community leaders, public participants, and YA employees from all branches. What developed from the workshop was a shared vision and a common mission.

Judges, mayors, victims advocates, school officials, treatment team supervisors, youth correctional officers, teachers and counselors, the community ... all participants were inspired to work together toward the same goal: building character, helping offenders change and become productive, crime-free citizens.

"All participants saw themselves as agents of change," said Farmer.

The following year, the Education Services Branch was

busy exploring creative ways to integrate values in all academic and career-vocational curricula. While the concepts of virtue and morality, transformation, and community structured the organization of the English Language Arts curriculum, many institutions started to function as learning communities thanks to strong partnerships among staff from all branches.

At the Youth Authority Training Center, new teachers enrolled in the Educator’s Academy and participated in the “Transformation from ward to student” learning activity. For newly recruited teachers, the message was clear: wards can change into students and good students become good citizens.

On living units throughout the institutions, youth correctional officers, counselors, and parole agents guided by the same vision joined forces, working side by side with education staff for the benefit of all students. They saw character building as the common thread that runs through all YA programs, since all programs are designed to return responsible, law-abiding, productive citizens to the community.

A wide selection of character education courses is offered at all schools: Young Men as Fathers, Impact of Crime on Victims, Employability Skills, Drug Education ... to name just a few. Students are required to earn 10 character education credits in order to graduate from any YA high school. Recently, the Mathematics Ad hoc Curriculum Committee selected perseverance, patience, honesty, and integrity as the core values of the newly adopted Mathematics curriculum.

While each YA staff member worked to make character education his or her business, staff from the Office of Criminal Justice Planning, the Department of Justice, and the Senate Office of Research, sought solutions to the complex problems faced by juvenile justice in California. In its final report of September 1996, the Task Force recommended that California adopt the balanced approach framework within the juvenile justice system. In 1998, the YA, which had affirmed its belief in the core values of the balanced approach, required offenders to complete 40 hours of public service as part of community restoration and positive contribution to it.

On Sept. 7, 1999, Gov. **Gray Davis** signed AB 637 into law, which adopts the restorative justice model into current law that defines the mission of the Department of the Youth Authority.

At the national level, in 1997, the 105th Congress, which wanted to “combat violent youth crime and increase accountability for juvenile criminal offenses,” authorized the U.S. Attorney General to provide grants under the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grants (JAIBG).

The California Youth Authority was able to hire three restorative justice coordinators to organize activities designed to enhance offender accountability and prepare offenders for successful transition back to the community. The JAIBG funds also support six additional transition coordinators who work with at-risk offenders that are credit deficient and who may display negative behaviors. Transition coordinators provide informal counseling and guidance; they monitor student progress in the classes and provide tutoring services as needed.

The YA was also given the opportunity to expand the Impact of Crime on Victims programs at four youth correctional facilities (O. H. Close, Karl Holton, Preston, and Heman G. Stark) and address the needs of students with disabilities in these specific classes.

An introductory course “Introduction to Impact of Crime on Victims” was developed and the 22-hour curriculum is fully implemented at all three YA Reception Centers and Clinics. It serves as a preventative tool to decreasing the number of behavioral infractions and further victimization during offenders’ YA stay. The newly created position of assistant principal for Character Education at the Education Services Branch, which is also supported by the JAIBG funds, demonstrates the Youth Authority’s commitment to character education.

“Whether we call what we do education, treatment, prevention, intervention, transition, parole services, program management, or administration, or even restorative justice... we all serve the same population and share the same clients. When we work to build character in each offender, we give hope to thousands of victims of crime, to our communities, and to the people of California. We inspire others to join us in the challenge,” Farmer concluded.

The eyes of
child
victims
speak
volumes



Facts You May Not know

International Advocacy

Throughout Brazil, there are more than 500 police stations staffed entirely by women to provide services to domestic violence and sexual assault victims. The program is being replicated in Japan and Costa Rica.

Children's Advocacy Centers

The first children's advocacy center initiated in Huntsville, Ala. in 1984 is designed especially for kids, allowing law enforcement officers, social workers, medical and mental health personnel, and prosecutors to work together to reduce the number of interviews and coordinate cases. Today, there are more than 350 children's advocacy centers in 48 states.

Crisis Response Teams

The nation’s first crisis response teams for victims were organized by the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) following the 1986 Edmond, Okla. post office shooting in which more than a dozen employees were killed. Response teams comprised of professionals from a variety of disciplines, including psychologists, law enforcement officers, doctors, social workers, victim advocates, and religious leaders, have been assembled around the country. These teams provide assistance to communities in the aftermath of major crimes and acts of terrorism such as mass murders and bombings.

Domestic Violence

The American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, in partnership with the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence provides free medical services to victims of domestic violence.

Dental Pros Partner in Domestic Violence Fight

Victims of domestic violence often are reluctant to report their abuse. About 75 percent of physical injuries from domestic violence are inflicted on the head, face, mouth and neck. Dental professionals are in an excellent position to recognize such abuse.

Even when victims of violence avoid seeking medical attention, they will keep routine and emergency treatment dental appointments. As a result, dentists, registered dental hygienists and registered dental assistants can be the first line of defense for an abuse victim.

All three are mandated to report suspicions of abuse and, in doing so, increase the victim’s chances of obtaining assistance.

Master Files, Intake and Court Services Play Integral Role for Victims Services Operation

The Office of Prevention and Victims' Services (OPVS) relies on the support of many offices to help fulfill our mission.

Two offices have often been asked to provide an increase in services and assistance due to OPVS workload increases. Master Files and Intake and Court Services have continually provided OPVS with professional and courteous direction. With more victim requests for information and support, more correction of court orders due to AB 1132 and an increase in victim restitution orders, the demands on Master Files and Intake and Court Services have been plenty. They have continually risen to the occasion and have become an integral part in advocating for victims' rights and offender accountability.

The OPVS acknowledges the outstanding commitment these units have and respects our working relationships with one another.

Ever-Changing Law Adds to Confusion

How is Restitution Collected and Dispersed to Victims?

By E. Monica Montañez
Victim Reparation Specialist

The Office of Prevention and Victims Services (OPVS) frequently answers questions from Youth Authority (YA) personnel, outside agencies, and the public regarding restitution practices at the California Youth Authority.

Because restitution law is continually evolving, YA strives to keep pace by providing training to staff and offenders and developing and disseminating informative related material.

Restitution training is available to all staff and offenders upon request.

An example of recently published material explaining types of restitution obligations, payment requirements and consequences for failure to pay is the *Restitution Guide for Offenders*, also available through OPVS.

For YA, restitution is a multi-branch issue. All efforts are equally important and key to offender accountability and program success. The fol-

lowing is an abbreviated demonstration of a restitution case and the route it travels before reaching the victim:

Joe Smith is committed to YA and ordered to pay victims restitution in the amount of \$100,000 to victim, Mary Jones, for the medical expenses she incurred as a result of the crime.

- Intake and Court Services accepts the commitment and the court forwards YA information regarding the case.
- Intake forwards restitution related information to OPVS.
- OPVS mails notification and restitution forms to Mary and notifies the institution where Joe is incarcerated of his restitution obligation.
- Institution staff begin collecting 50 percent of Joe's trust account deposits to pay for his court ordered restitution. These deposits include wages from institution employment as well as funds from his family and friends.

Clinic Introduces Wards to Victims Rights

The staff at the Southern Youth Correctional Reception Center and Clinic are making greater efforts to increase the participation of wards in the observance of Victims Rights Week this year through participation in programs and provision of special events.

"For most wards in the south, the southern clinic is the first facility in the Youth Authority to introduce wards to victim awareness and the rights of victims," said Bayani Redoblado, supervising casework specialist I, and coordinator of Victims' Rights Week.

The staff at the institution are planning to reach out to every ward at the

clinic to be part of the Victims Rights Week observance through various activities such as essay contests, poetry contests and art contests, he said. Speaker and a candlelight vigil hosted by Mothers Against Drunk Driving are also part of the week-long activities.

The staff and wards have already begun a victims' fund this year that is being built with contributions raised through sales of "goodies" and participation in other fund-raisers. As in the past, the money raised will be set aside for a selected victim or organization that helps victims in the City of Norwalk, Redablado said.

- Quarterly the Institution Accounting Office issues a check to Mary and forwards it to OPVS for mailing (victim information is confidential).

Once Joe is paroled, collection continues.

- The parole agent handling Joe's case sets up a restitution payment plan.
- Joe then pays money directly to the parole agent or person at the parole office.
- Restitution money collected is deposited at Headquarters Accounting Office.
- Periodically, the Parole Restitution Project evaluates Joe's available funds and requests a check from Headquarters Accounting for Mary.
- Parole Restitution Project forwards the check to OPVS.
- When Joe satisfies his obligation or discharges from YA jurisdiction, Parole or I&C (as appropriate) notify the committing

court of payment in full or Joe's remaining unpaid balance.

- To continue collection of any unpaid balance, Mary must pursue a civil remedy from the discharged ward or parolee.

Although this process doesn't seem complex, recent changes in restitution law allow YA to be more aggressive in restitution collection methods.

Without assistance from the court, accounting, institution, and parole staff, restitution collection would not be as successful as it is today.

Prior to AB 1132 (of 1997/98), (the law that allows YA to deduct up to 50 percent of an offender's trust account deposit to pay for his/her ordered restitution) the average amount of restitution collected per quarter totaled \$76,000. This amount increased to \$170,000 per quarter after AB1132 implementation.

Congratulations and thank you to YA staff for your dedication, partnership and support! Together we make a difference.

DD Column: New Directions

Continued from Page 1

rights, and prevention and victims services.

Accountability

New Directions from the Field, a document released by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime in 1999, includes the following recommendation: "Victims should have standing to enforce their rights, and sanctions should be applied to criminal and juvenile justice professionals who deny victims their fundamental rights."

How do we apply this "recommendation" to the Youth Authority?

We take great pride in meeting fundamental victim rights related to notification, allocution, and restitution. We have developed policies and procedures that facilitate victim-offender meetings and victim participation in offender programs and advisory groups.

Regardless of the progress we have made in these areas and the commitment of staff, we are far from perfect. Any violation in meeting the rights of victims participating in our system is unacceptable - - we must put in place a structure that ensures that no victim gets "lost" in the system and holds us accountable when we fail.

Also in the area of accountability, we must continue our trail-blazing efforts in the area of offender responsibility. Offenders must participate in activities that assist them in meeting their obligations to their victims, communities, and self to leave our jurisdiction better than when they entered.

Victims Rights

We must continue our efforts through policy and legislation to elevate the rights of victims of juvenile offenders to that of victims of adult offenders. Again, we have made significant progress in California, but we have a long way to go. In addition, we must actively address services to underserved populations including YA staff who are victimized by our offenders.

Prevention, Victims Services

Lastly, we have a unique opportunity to impact public safety over the next decade through leadership, technical assistance, and participation with crime prevention efforts at the local level. It is no mystery why prevention and victims services were incorporated into one branch in the Youth Authority - - ask any victim! Victims recognize the power of holding a youth accountable the *first* time they commit a delinquent act - - a crime prevented at the forward end of the system means one less person is victimized! Youth Authority's experience and expertise in victim-offender programming and "restorative justice" strategies can serve California communities well.

The "dream" of a few Youth Authority pioneers in the 1970s and '80s of a Youth Authority where every victim is treated with dignity and compassion, is now the "dream" of many dedicated staff, let's work together over the next decade to build upon the dream for victim equality and restoration, offender and system accountability.



San Diego Project Parole Office staff and parolees wash "many a car" last May to raise money (\$250) for two children who lost both parents in a shooting incident. They also collected clothing, toiletries, and foot items for victims of domestic violence.

Amador Helps Out Child Abuse Victims

As part of their restorative justice program, Amador Hall at O. H. Close Youth Correctional Facility in 1999, adopted the Child Abuse Prevention Council as the non-profit organization they will support.

The Council provides shelter for children who have been victims of abuse. The Council can provide shelter for up to 35 children, most who are usually under the age of 10. The Council also provides family reunification services, intensive counseling, and home supervision visits.

Since the partnership was formed, staff and wards have held various fund raising activities including a car show, photo sales and an annual craft fair with items handcrafted by the Amador Hall wards.

Throughout the year, proceeds from the fundraisers were able to provide items such as outside swings, playpens, car seats, diapers, formula, toys, and even sand for a sand box! All items that need assembly are put together by the wards on Amador Hall as part of their community service hours.

In January 1999, the Amador staff and wards were able to donate a gift of education and entertainment to the Council. Treatment Team Supervisor **Bruce Peebles**, Senior Youth Correctional Counselor **Cris Espinosa** and wards **Raymundo Cruz** and **Duy Huynh** presented the children and staff with a television, VCR, and stereo.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Amador Hall wards and staff, nearly \$2,000 in items has been donated to help the Child Abuse Prevention Council become more efficient for staff and more comfortable for the children.

Communication, Victim Impact Class Aid GVRP

It has been 24 years since the inception of the Gang Violence Reduction Program (GVRP) East Los Angeles (ELA). The program encourages the development of prevention/intervention within the community. Many of the staff have literally been part of the neighborhood.

Today is no different. Prevention continues to be the main focus, and the success in the community is apparent. It has been two years since the last gang homicide occurred in the unincorporated area of East Los Angeles, primarily due to the Gang Mediation Program.

Daughters and mothers are communicating better regarding family responsibilities and develop better relationships with their future spouses because of the Mothers and Daughters Program. Sons are learning to be better providers and fathers because of the Fathers and Sons Program.

Another important program that is helping both the youth and the community is the Victim Impact Program at GVRP/ELA.

Johnny Licon is the main staff involved with this program. You can find Mr. Licon at various places during the month. He provides a curriculum about Victim Awareness to many organizations and the community. His curriculum consists of material gathered from local agencies (Police, Sheriff, District Attorneys, Videos, and life experiences).

There are many organizations he works with: California Youth Authority Facilities (Fred C. Nelles Youth Correctional Facility and Southern Youth Correctional Reception Center and Clinic), juvenile hall facilities (Los Padrinos, Eastlake, and Sylmar), camps centers (Miller, Challenger, Cleopatra), Montebello School District (Elementary, Middle School, High School), District Attorney (Lead Programs), and the Los Angeles Sheriff (Vida Program).

Mr. Licon has regular weekly class meetings with the wards at the California Youth Authority. He usually has a three hour class at Nelles and an hour class at the Southern Youth Correctional Reception Center and Clinic, with a class size of 25 to 30 wards.

Licon contacts the other organizations usually through presentations, about 20 per month. These can last up to an hour, and the class size ranges from 40 to 200 (auditorium or gym setting).

Mr. Licon teaches that victimization affects all people (individuals, family members, and communities). He tells the wards and students how selfish offenders are when they rob and burglarize their neighborhood. The people they victimize work hard and pay dearly for those articles. He also talks about both the offender's family and the victim's family.

If the offender is seriously hurt and needs medical attention, his family is liable. After his recovery, his court and

attorney costs cause another burden to the family. And if he dies, the family must provide the cost of the funeral.

There is also the embarrassment to the family because of the action committed. As for the victim, there are all the above and one other very important factor - the lifetime remembrance of the ordeal and the unhealthy mental state caused by the offender. Mr. Licon talks about the victims and the injustice they must face. The rights of the victim are not as common as those of the offender. They do not have a choice to pay or not pay for a lawyer. They do not have a choice to attend or not attend the court proceeding as the offender does. The victim does not have the right to give a statement during the court hearing or with the preliminary paperwork before the trial. Many times the victim is forgotten.

Mr. Licon further explains that the victim does not have the opportunity to be rehabilitated through academic education or vocational training when he or she is recovering from the attack caused by the offender.

Finally, he tells them that the victim must face the ordeal for a lifetime, even though he or she was only an innocent bystander.

It is good that we have organizations such as GVRP and staff members like Johnny Licon. For they help both young and old realize that consequences of our behavior are more far-reaching than we realize.

YA Parolees Visit Museum of Tolerance

As part of their on-going training on the impact of crime on victims, parolees of the Youth Authority made a trip back in time.

On Aug. 11, the **Simon Wiesenthal** Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles hosted a special day for YA parolees who were escorted by their parole officers.

The Museum of Tolerance explores two central themes: the problem of racism and bigotry in America, past and present, and the history of the Holocaust.

The "Tolerancenter" focuses on the dynamics of prejudice and discrimination. Parolees were asked to confront their own and society's prejudices, by participating in the 35 participatory installations highlighting issues of intolerance that are part of the fabric of every day life. The Holocaust section of the museum takes visitors back in time to witness the rise of Nazism.

The day included a tour of the museum, a facilitated discussion with participants, and a presentation by a Holocaust survivor. The parolees (all committed for violent offenses and many with a history of gang involvement) experienced some personal self-assessment during the tour.

Students in Impact of Crime on Victims Class Express Themselves

The following excerpts were submitted by **Diane Burris, instructor** - Madelyn Nagazyna High School - Northern Youth Correctional Reception Center and Clinic

These excerpts are from actual classroom assignments.

On Accountability and Empathy:
"There was a time when I started stealing car stereo systems for money. I went out almost every night to different cities. Not ever alone, for my own safety. Well, after a while I started to feel guilt and shame.

"Thoughts began to run through my mind that showed me some of the reactions the owners of the vehicles might have.

"Sometimes they were angry and other times they started to cry and would ask how they were going to pay for the damages or the loss of the product. I started to feel their violation. Seeing kids car seats really bothered me.

"I just couldn't not feel sympathy for the parents I was stealing from. So I stopped doing these things, as well as other crimes." — **Mauricio**

"If I were the victim of the crime I committed, I would have to move away to feel safe. That is a scary feeling. Here you are talking on a pay phone and someone comes up to you trying to rob you and for no reason at all you are stabbed. I would be angry and scared. I would want the perpetrator to feel sorry for what he did, that would be some sort of comfort, that he felt empathy. Because if he were to get into my shoes and see how I felt he would be wondering why this happened." — **Daniel**

On Restitution:
(Assignment: The wards were asked to imagine what they would say nine years after honorable discharge if asked to speak to Youth Authority wards on the importance of paying their restitution)

"My name is K. L. and I used to live right here at NYCRC just like you. That was nine years ago. You may be asking, What is restitution? What does it mean to me? I ask you; Is restitution all about money? No, it is NOT. There is a lot more to it than that.

"Restitution is for the victims of

your crime, or the crimes of others much like you. The purpose is to compensate the victim's losses. It's important to pay your restitution because you can never give back what you took from your victim. When you pay your restitution you demonstrate that you have taken financial responsibility for your crime.

"When you commit a crime you are put in a whole new category of society. You are labeled with names like criminal, offender, perpetrator, delinquent. Whatever the title may be you will be looked upon differently.

"Paying your restitution is one way of restoring your name — one way of getting rid of that label. To the court it may look like you are trying to make a difference and that you are changing, becoming responsible for your crime and for your victims. Your victim may feel relief that you are being responsible and this may help them on their road to recovery.

"I suggest you pay your restitution. I did, and then I went to college. If I can do it, so can you!" — **K.L.**

Another speech - same scenario
"My name is Mauricio and I am

here to speak to you about restitution. Restitution is an amount of money you owe the victim of the crime, or money you owe for committing the crime or both. This is something that just doesn't go away. This fine must be paid.

"Now before I start explaining the consequences if it is not paid. Let me tell you about the benefits if you do pay. Some of you might have the idea that it doesn't matter what others think of you. But in some cases it matters greatly.

"When you pay your restitution you show people that you are responsible and care about certain things. And those certain things might be the victim or it might be that you care about what happens if you don't pay.

"Also if you pay, you don't have to be worrying about people deducting money from your paycheck or personal account

"The consequences for not paying are: Parole denial, your parents might also be fined. Deductions from your paycheck. Also the victim can sue you for damages and failure to pay the fine and for personal property. It is my recommendation that you pay your restitution before you parole, just as I did." — **Mauricio**

“Parents In Session” — Impact of Crime on Victims Class

With the turn of the century and with the emergence of "Restorative Justice," we are committed to go the extra mile. Fred C. Nelles Youth Correctional Facility, Impact of Crime on Victims class is going the extra mile.

Because we are concerned about the juveniles' transition back into society and into their homes we have established "Parents in Session," said **Felicia M. Jones-Alford**, the Impact of Crime on Victims Teacher at Fred C. Nelles Youth Correctional Facility. The "Parents in Session" class

was started by Ms. Jones-Alford. Parents are invited to participate in the Impact of Crime on Victims class on the last day of class. Parents come and literally take part in the classroom teaching and lecturing process.

The sessions are very powerful and emotional. The ward and parents go through very emotional exercises that cause them to start the healing process of the hurt and pain they have caused their families and the victims' families. The wards and parents (or anybody else in atten-

dance) are usually brought to tears, which is often critical to the healing process that needs to take place in the home and society.

Parents who have concerns about what is actually taking place during their child's incarceration are usually very grateful to have the opportunity to attend "Parents in Session" classes.

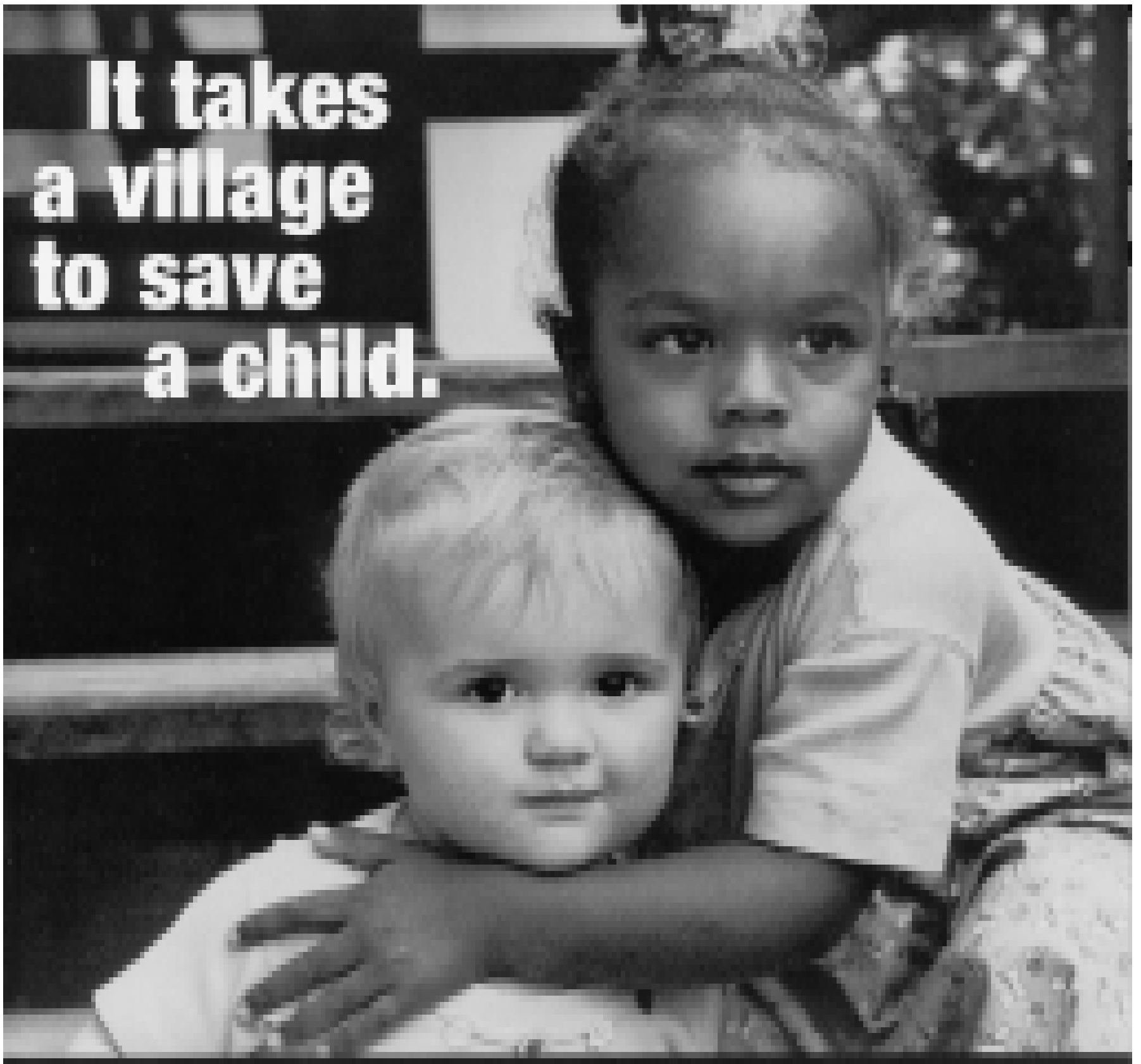
"The Parents in Session classes are phenomenal," said Ms. Jones-Alford. "The parents and the wards together get an opportunity to see the devastation they have caused their

families and victims. I can't really describe the positive energies that are the result of these sessions."

According to Ms. Jones-Alford, the parents are so pleased about what is being taught to their sons during their incarceration that they support the program in most cases.

"My wish is that all Impact of Crime on Victims classes will incorporate these sessions into their curriculum. These classes allow us to really start the restorative justice process by starting the healing process within the home," she said.

**It takes
a village
to save
a child.**



**Report
child abuse.**

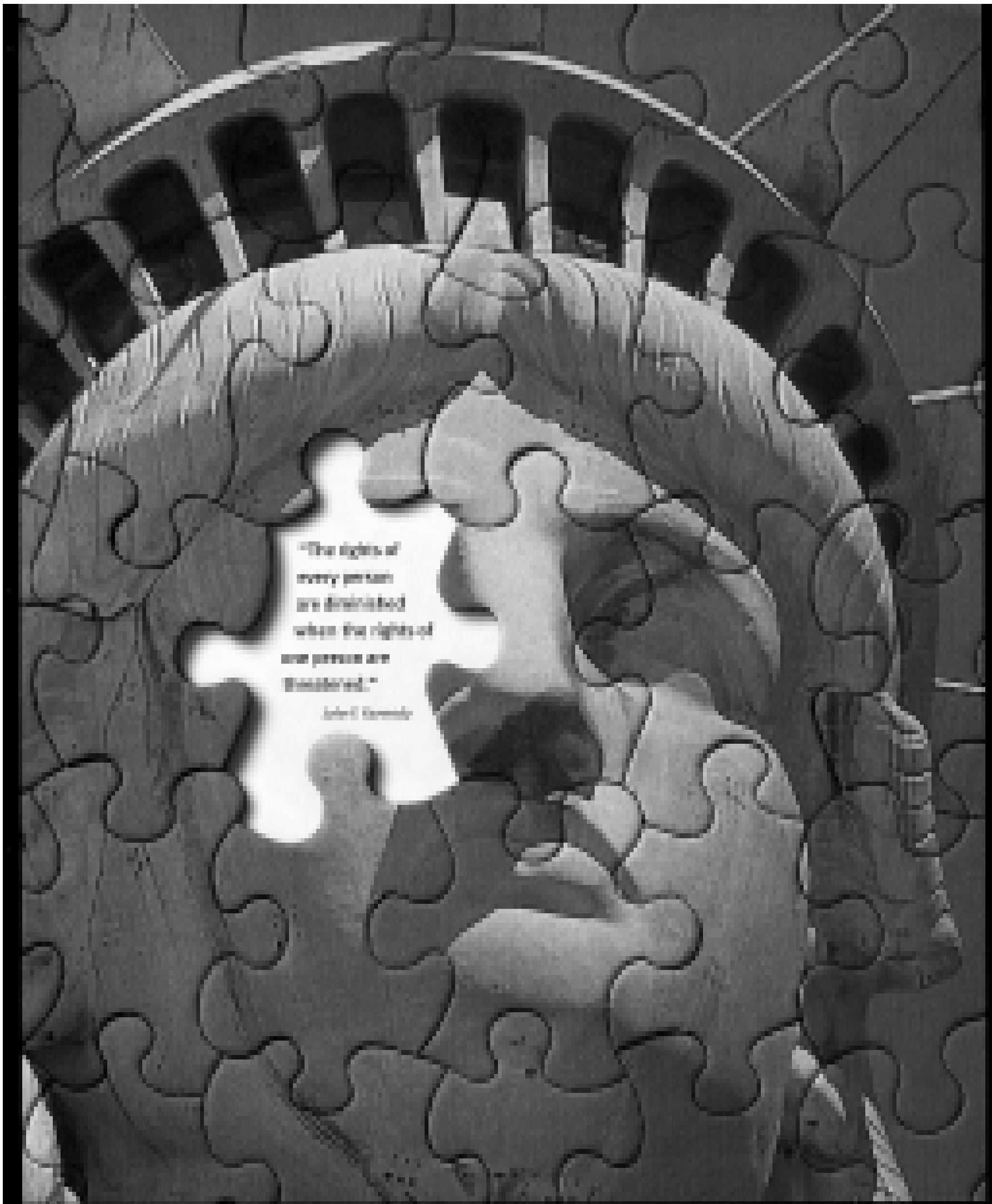
THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
Victims of Crime

800.421.3801

Our Pledge to Victims

As Youth Authority staff, we pledge the following:

- To uphold victims' rights to be protected from further physical and emotional harm.
- To treat victims in a professional, sensitive and supportive manner.
- To consider victims' needs and value their input.
- To hold offenders accountable for past and current victimization of others on a daily basis.



Victims' Services Resource Phone Numbers & Websites

Web Sites

www.cya.ca.gov	California Youth Authority
www.ncjrs.org/jjhome.htm	National Criminal Justice Reference Service
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/	Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)
www.volcanopress.com	Volcano Press Publishers (books, videos and posters)
www.ocjp.ca.gov/	Office of Criminal Justice Planning
www.madd.org	Mothers Against Drunk Driving
metroguide.com/pomc/	Parents of Murdered Children

Phone Numbers

1-800-799-7233	National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-537-2238	National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
1-800-FYI-CALL	National Victims Center
1-800-TRY-NOVA	National Organization for Victims Assistance
1-800-438-MADD	Mothers Against Drunk Driving
1-800-851-3420	National Criminal Justice Reference Service
1-800-627-6872	Office for Victims of Crime Resource Center
1-800-777-9229	State Board of Control, Victims of Crime Division
1-800-7-VICTIM	Doris Tate Crime Victims' Bureau
1-800-VIC-TIMS	Victims of Crime Resource Center-McGeorge School of Law

Every week is

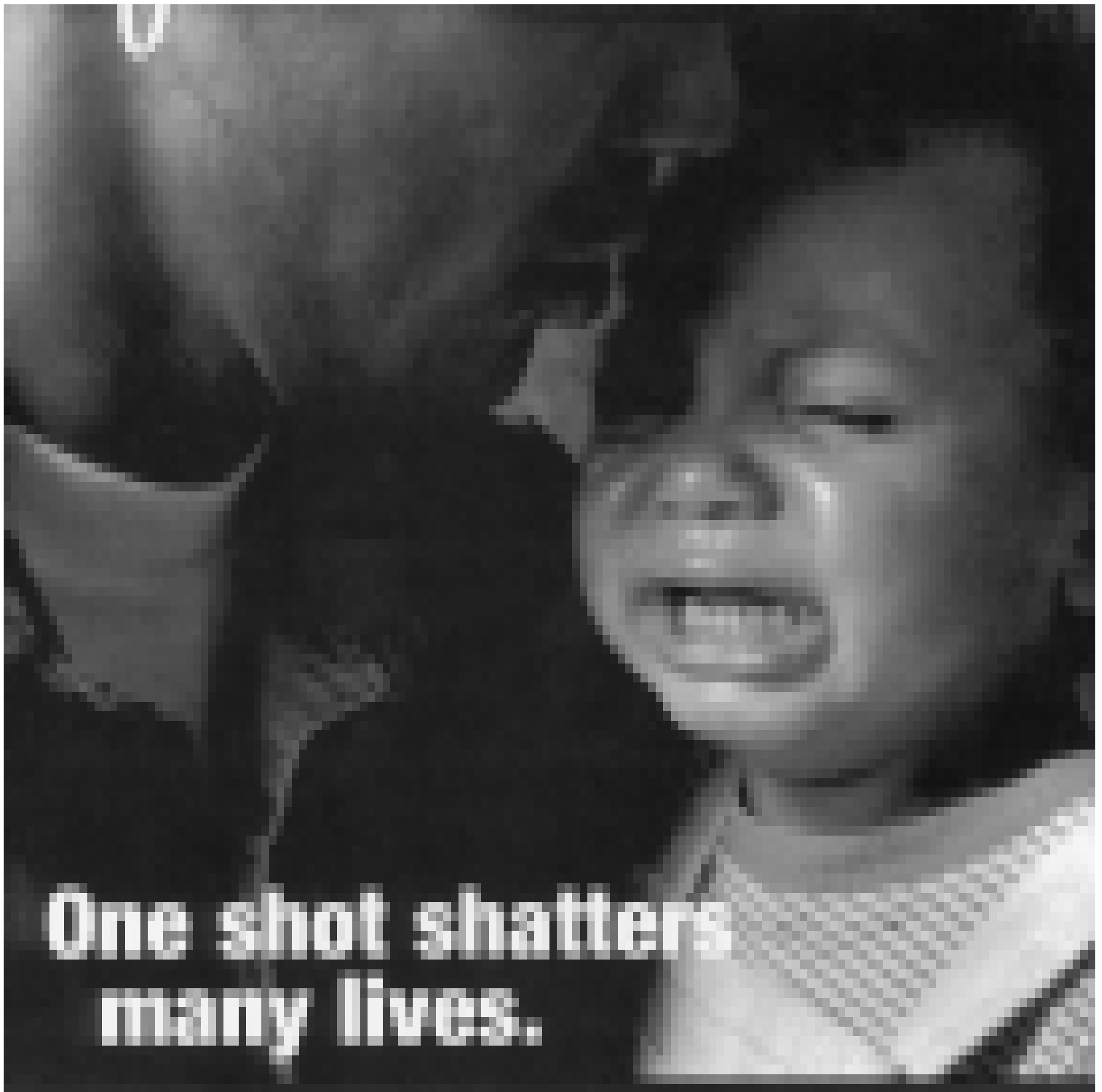
National Crime Victim's Week

...for the Victims of Violent Crime

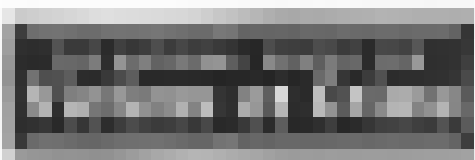


**'Victims should be informed of their rights
in seeking redress through...judicial and
administrative mechanisms'**

**– United Nations Declaration of
Basic Principles of Justice for
Victims of Crime
and Abuse of Power**



If someone you know has
been murdered, help is available.



'The rights of every person are diminished
when the rights of one person are threatened.'

— John F. Kennedy

YA, Board of Control Team up to Increase Restitution, Fine Collection

By **E. Monica Montañez**
Victim Reparation Specialist

In an effort to increase restitution fine assessments and collections, as well as enhance the identification of Victims of Crime (VOC) program claims for State Board of Control (SBOC) subrogation purposes, the board is again funding three positions at the California Youth Authority through an interagency agreement for the current fiscal year.

The positions are devoted to the Victims Reparation Project (VRP).

This project focuses on the analysis of court-ordered restitution trends across the state, the identification of jurisdictions failing to comply with legal mandates, and on enhanced communication between the YA and the SBOC.

This is accomplished through the review of intake cases for court-ordered restitution, the training of various entities, including YA staff, on restitution and YA's collection process and the improvement of the collection process at YA. In its third year of multi-year funding, the VRP has made exceptional progress.

'Chad' Donates \$100,000 to San Joaquin Victim Organizations

By **Eleanor Silva**
Parole Agent III

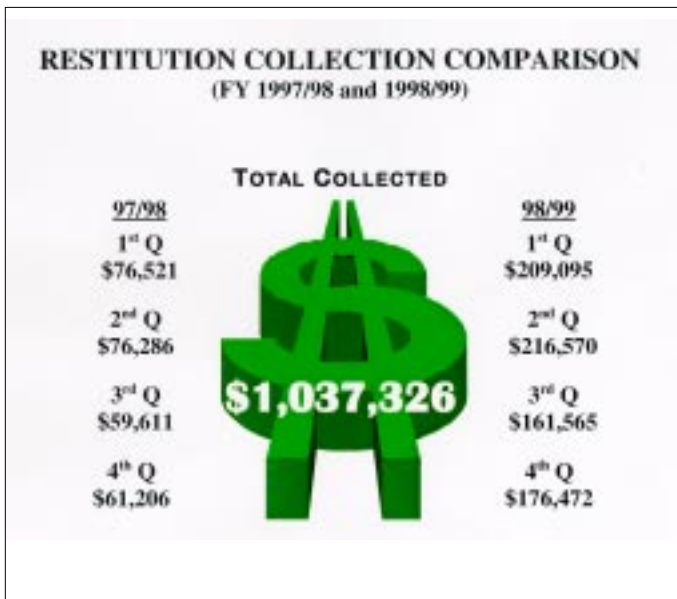
N. A. Chaderjian Youth Correctional Facility presented \$18,000 to three local victim organizations on March 9, 2000, bringing the total donations made by the staff and wards of that facility to more than \$100,000 over the past six years.

Representatives from the Child Abuse Prevention Council, the Women's Center of San Joaquin County, and Survivors of Murder Victims accepted the contributions at a brief ceremony on March 9.

During the past six years more than \$100,000 has been raised and donated to various victim agencies, organizations and special funds in the San Joaquin County area. The staff and wards at Chaderjian have made awareness of crime victims a priority both in programming efforts and in donations to local organizations.

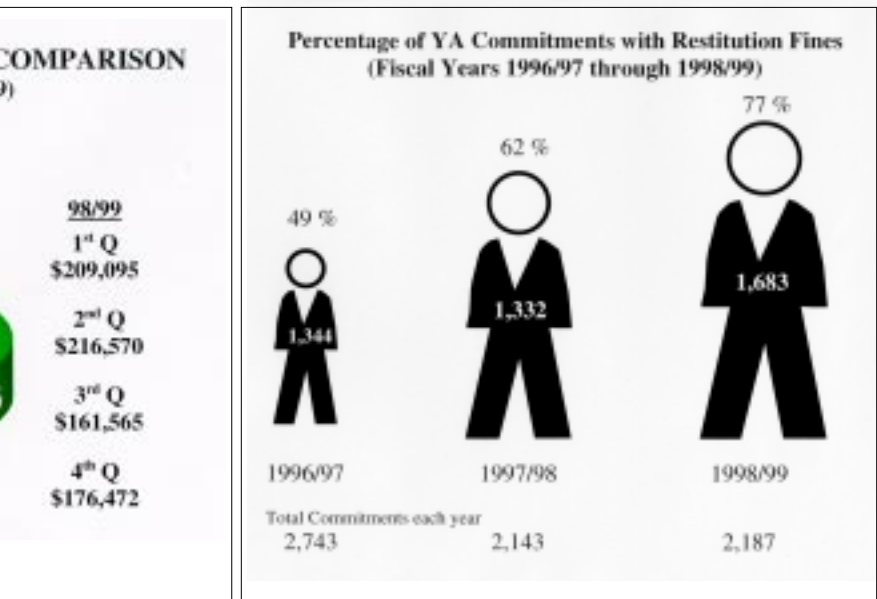
"These acts of kindness have had a tremendous impact on the Stockton community," said Chaderjian Superintendent **Gary Maurer**. "Staff and wards work together to create an environment that fosters positive attitudes and personal growth. There is no better evidence of this than the efforts that go into raising money for these victims organizations."

Each year Chaderjian staff and wards work to generate money through activities such as raffles, food sales, car



Through its proactive review of incoming wards to YA facilities, the VRP has seen the percentage of YA commitments with mandatory restitution fines soar from 49 percent in fiscal year 1996/97 to 77 percent in fiscal year 1998/99.

The increase is largely attributed to responsive judges, probation and prosecution staff, as well as, outreach



and restitution training provided by the SBOC and the YA.

Restitution collection has also skyrocketed within YA facilities. YA averaged approximately \$68,000 per quarter in restitution collection during fiscal year, 1997/98. This figure increased to \$190,000 per quarter for the fiscal year 1998/99. This particular increase in collection is largely due to As-

sembly Bill 1132, which allows the YA to deduct up to 50 percent of an offender's trust account deposit for payment of their court ordered restitution.

The VRP and the SBOC look forward to the positive outcomes future collaboration with the criminal justice community will have in supporting the VOC Program and holding offenders accountable for their actions.



Holton's Garden Blooms for Victims

By **Erin Brock**
Treatment Team Supervisor

In the summer of 1999, **Dr. Zimmerman's** Design For Living class planted a Victims Garden in front of the school area and in the quad area of the school at Karl Holton Youth Correctional Drug and Alcohol Treatment Facility.

According to Dr. Zimmerman, the central idea behind the Victims Garden is that ALL victims of crime should never be forgotten. While bees and butterflies are attracted to the flowers, our thoughts are with the victims of crime, he said. Thus, in remembrance of all victims of crime the project went in to full force during the summer.

The garden was blessed and stayed in bloom for more than eight months.

Karl Holton staff and wards are very proud of this garden; proud to be a part of a program that focuses on the importance of recognizing the impact of crime. Every morning and afternoon, wards and staff walk by the garden on their way to and from classes.

The following wards worked on this project along with Dr. Zimmerman: **Armando Espinoza, Jesus Noriega, Jose Burrola, Timothy Brown, Feliz Balboa, Teddy Pangelinan, Jason Collins, Paul Bruster, Anthony Malone, Juan Olague, Caytano Robles, Alfonso Marquez, Manuel Jaramillo, Hiporito Barraza and Ricardo Arreola.**

Karl Holton Just an Example of Work on Behalf of Victims Performed Throughout YA

By **Erin Brock**
Treatment Team Supervisor

Over the past year Karl Holton staff and wards have participated in various fund raising activities as well as programs designed to raise awareness and money for victims of crime.

Proceeds from the various fundraisers are donated to local agencies including the AIDS Foundation, the San Joaquin County Child Abuse Prevention Council, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Survivors of Murder Victims, St. Mary's Dining Hall, San Joaquin Transitional Learning Center,

the San Joaquin Battered Women's Shelter and the Stockton Adopt-A-Family program.

In addition, many Karl Holton wards donate their ward pay to the Karl Holton victims' fund and that money is then donated to various local agencies. In this way, wards are taught accountability through restitution.

In one of the fundraising events Youth Correctional Counselor **Gena Landberg** and YCC **Dawn Baird** brainstormed together and held a photo fundraiser for Tioga and Sonora hall wards. The money raised was donated to St. Mary's Interfaith Dining Hall.

In another event, YCC **Janet Childress**, Sonora Hall has been having monthly caseload fundraisers. To-date, Ms. Childress' caseload has raised a total of \$338.12, which was donated to a victims group during National Crime Victims Rights Week, 2000. Ms. Childress and the wards on her caseload are very proud of their efforts and want to give back to those who have been victims of crime.

Like all of the YA facilities, Karl Holton continues to make a big impact on the wards vision of victims, and puts victims' issue in the forefront of their programs. They do this by having

monthly speakers come in to the Impact of Crime On Victims classes, victim speakers on the dorms throughout the year and YCC's on an on-going basis conduct small group sessions around victims issues – all ensuring that wards are sensitive toward victims and aware of the deep emotional, physical and financial suffering they have caused their victims.

During National Crime Victims Week, Karl Holton as well as every YA facility and camp, hosted many activities including a Moment of Silence, poster and essay contests, fund-raisers, and a Victims Assembly.

CPPCA Recognizes Staff, Programs at Annual Awards

By **Sarah Ludeman**
Information Officer

Donna Mason, executive director of the Sacramento Area Stalking Survivors, Inc., was one of five individuals and three programs that received awards for their positive contributions to the field of youth corrections in September from the California Probation, Parole and Correctional Association.

Former YA Director **Greg Zermeno** presented the awards at the 69th Annual California Probation, Parole, and Correctional Association's Awards banquet in Sacramento.

The awards included three distinguished service awards, two victim services awards, and three program awards. Additionally, three former parolees received the "Outstanding Achievement" award for having made formidable strides in changing their life-styles.

"It's a pleasure for me to recognize these individuals and programs for their contributions that positively impact the lives of youth in our state," Zermeno said. "We in the YA are pleased to be able to honor these people and programs and to express our appreciation for their innovative and dedicated efforts."

Following are the recipients of the YA Awards for their work on behalf of victims of crime:

Donna Mason, executive director of the Sacramento Area Stalking Survivors (SASS), Inc., received the Victim Service Award for her efforts in forming alliances with other victims and establishing the SASS. A survivor

of stalking, Mason has testified before the state Legislature, been a speaker at the YA's Impact of Crime on Victims classes, is a member of the Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime National Advisory Panel on Stalking, and has participated in numerous other local and national groups to provide education, share information, and provide support for victims.

Verna Champion, parole agent I in San Diego, who has been with the YA for more than 10 years, has dedicated numerous personal hours in fund-raising activities to support victims programs. She helps victims who want to testify at parole hearings and holds those parolees assigned to her accountable for any restitution they are required to pay. She continues to make ongoing significant contributions to enhancing services to crime victims and in doing so makes all the staff at the San Diego Parole Office aware of their individual role as advocates for crime victims.

Gerri Farris, property controller and **Donna Potch**, office technician of the Parole Restitution Program, were assigned to the Restitution Program in 1996. With minimal resources and working together as a creative team, they quickly developed many innovative procedures to enhance accurate record keeping.

They developed training materials and provided training for field parole staff throughout the state. Parole restitution collection over the last three years has increased nearly \$40,000, thanks to the tremendous work and motivational training of Farris and Potch.

Camps Continue the Work with Impact of Crime on Victims Classes

Although wards in the Youth Conservation Camps find themselves facing fires, floods and long days of hard work, they are not excused from continuing their education and learning about the impact their crimes have had on victims.

For example, at Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp, Youth Correctional Counselors **Gerald McCarthy** and **Richard Forster** have taken the torch from long time ICV Instructor **Mary Behrendt**.

Following Ms. Behrendt's retirement, she returned on a limited basis

for one year to continue teaching the ICV to camp wards. Her dedication to the plight of victims continues three days a week at Central Office in the OPVS, where she assists staff with duties ranging from victim notification to restitution collections.

With a notable majority of wards needing the victims training, YCCs McCarthy and Forster keep in step with current trends such as the concepts of restorative justice, empathy, fund-raising and donations, and a focus on domestic violence.

The 40-hour curricula includes

This course is designed to enhance the orientation program provided at Youth Authority Clinics. The purpose of the program is to aid the student in beginning to recognize the impact their crimes have had on their victims, society and themselves. The course will provide opportunities for the student to look at the effects of violence and victimization within families and communities. Students will be evaluating and responding to situations presented on videos and to scenarios provided within the curriculum. Classes are conducted using the Socratic method of questioning students about their reactions and feelings to given information. Students will be expected to respond in verbal and written form.

Character building exercises are used throughout the curriculum with emphasis on cooperative learning. Learning to work together today, may make it easier to work together in the community in the future.

Changing their lives, breaking old habits, looking at life from a different



H.G. Stark Marks Victims Week

As part of its 1999 National Crime Victims Week activities, staff and wards at the Heman G. Stark Youth Correctional Facility conducted a poster contest with the theme from last year "Silent No More." In addition to the poster contest, the facilities invited victim activist **Jean O'Hara** to address the wards and staff. Mrs. O'Hara, above, examines one of the posters produced for the week of activities.



classroom discussions on drugs and society, drug dealing, child abuse, sexual assault, robbery, drunken driving, domestic violence, violent crime, homicide, and property offenses.

Ruby Mayhall from the Calaveras County Women's Shelter and community victims advocate visits each class and addresses the group on victims' issues and the long term consequences of criminal behavior.

She has long been a presenter at the camp and is greatly appreciated by the wards and staff.

Ms. Mayhall speaks to the rights

of people in our society and the freedoms they are guaranteed.

Most people do not expect to be victimized in a sudden, violent way. They experience a deep sense of violation by the actions of our offenders.

In the camp class, like all other ICV classes, wards are challenged to develop empathy with victims and understand that they do not share common life experiences with violent offenders. They are not looking for trouble as gang members and community delinquents often are.

Looking into the future, YCCs McCarthy and Forster see the victims program maintaining the same high profile in the camp program treatment scheme.

They are eager to attend additional training sessions offered by the OPVS and expand the video library of Pine Grove Camp. They also want to diversify fund-raising activities, and locate additional speakers for the ICV.

Despite having relatively small staff and small numbers of wards, the camps in this department produce their fair share of contributions for local victims programs.

During 1999, Pine Grove donated \$900 to community organizations through staff and ward fund-raising efforts. In 1998 they donated \$1,800.

The Operation Care Women's Shelter, the Calaveras County Women's Crisis Center and the Amador / Tuolumne Action Agency Parenting Program were the beneficiaries of these funds. Pine Grove's goal for 2000 is more involvement with these groups and additional donations of time and money to these and other worthwhile community programs.

Introduction to ICV Begins at Reception Centers

By **Diane Burris**,
Character Education Teacher

Thanks to the shared vision of many agencies concerned with juvenile offender accountability, the securing of the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant, the dedication of the Office of Prevention and Victim Services, and Education Branch Services students are getting a look at Victims issues at the beginning of their stay in the California Youth Authority.

This effort has been the combined work of many people. The program offers materials and coursework that help the newly incarcerated young person begin to realize not only their role in having created victims, and thereby a debt, but also their responsibility for changing their lives. They are encouraged to put themselves in the shoes of their victim, and the victims of crimes committed by others. They are asked to think about how they can, in some small way, help their victim to recover to some degree.

In the frame of mind, these are some of the things I ask my students to do, at Madelyn Nagazyna High School. We are fortunate to have begun this program in November 1999. With the encouragement and determination of our Principal **Terri Atad**, we began with only a few of the components clearly defined. I have enjoyed being involved with the curriculum development. Thanks to Character Education Assistant Principal **Fabienne Farmer** there are Eight curriculum areas developed.

The English Language Arts students at El Paso de Robles YCF have written essays to share with newly incarcerated students. **Kip Lowe, Jill Weston, Dorrine Davis, and Don Saylor** have been the visionaries. The students who complete the classes at the 3 Clinic High Schools: Jack B. Clarke, Mary B. Perry, and Madelyn Nagazyna High School will have some extra tools with which to apply themselves to the onerous task of maturing into responsible, productive community members. We Dare to Dream!

Victims' Rights Key to History, Future of YA Victims Services

By **Cynthia Florez-DeLyon**
Victims Services Specialist

The YA has been providing services to victims since the early 1980's. Throughout the years, we have evolved from an offender focused system to one that recognizes the rights and needs of those hurt by crime.

Some significant accomplishments in the area of victims services include:

- Offender awareness and accountability taught through the Impact of Crime on Victims program.
- Advocacy on behalf of victims.
- Notification of release, escape and other information as required by law.
- Collection and disbursement of restitution.
- Accompany victims to Youthful Offender Parole Board Hearings.
- Assistance in writing victim impact statements.
- Provide resource referral for coun-

seling and to the Victims of Crime Program.

- Provide resource referral and assistance to staff who have been victimized.
- Provide technical assistance and training within the department and on the local, state and national level related to victims services, the Impact of Crime on Victims classes, restitution, domestic violence and staff victimization.
- Production of the "He Got CYA" brochure in 6 languages (English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Laotian, Cambodian and Tagalog).
- Production of a "Restitution Guide for Offenders."
- Production of four Technical Assistance Bulletins: Workplace Violence Prevention for Correctional Personnel, Death Notification Procedures for Correctional Personnel, Stalking Awareness for Correctional Personnel and Family

Violence Prevention for Correctional Personnel.

- Production of the "Helping Victims" video.
- Provide emergency travel funds for victims to attend parole hearings.
- Interagency collaborations with the Office of Criminal Justice and Planning (OCJP) and the State Board of Control (BOC).

The Victims Services Division (VSD) continues to run in high gear to better respond to requests for services and maintain it's national leadership in the area of victims services.

Future goals include the following:

- Seek additional funding sources for the expansion of VSD resources to increase direct services and outreach to victims.
- Provide continued resource referral to staff and their families through outreach and training.
- Provide restitution training for offenders.

- Continue to provide victims awareness training at the local, state and national level.
- Translate victim letters and forms into Spanish, Laotian, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Cambodian.
- Implement an automated victim notification system where victims can access offender information by telephone 24 hours a day.
- Produce notification forms in Braille to assist blind victims.
- Implement Victim Awareness Education Programs at county level juvenile halls and camps, and court schools.
- Enhance and centralize the YA's current restitution accounting system.
- Have notification forms available on the internet.
- Formalize YA's current victim offender meeting program and train additional staff at each worksite to facilitate the meetings.

O.H. Close, Chaderjian Help Bring Christmas Spirit to Needy



Office of Prevention and Victims Services' **Jill Weston**, PA III, (l) N.A. Chaderjian's **Karen Jennings**, PAI, **Buck Busefield** of the B Street Theatre, and Chaderjian PAI **Lori Muñoz** share a happy moment after Chaderjian and O.H. Close institutions funded two special performatnce for needy children in the Sacramento area.

Staff and wards of O.H. Close and N.A. Chaderjian Youth Correctional Facilities raised more than \$500 each to help bring a little Christmas spirit to terminally and chronically ill children and to families in need as part of their victim impact programs.

The Children's Fantasy Theater, part of the Sacramento-based B Street Theater is a nonprofit organization that brings theater productions to schools. They do 12 performances a week and are generally booked solid throughout the year.

The B Street's Fantasy Theater generally charges a school \$500 for a performance and they frequently get calls from nonprofit organizations asking for free shows. When this happens, they look for sponsors or donations to help pay for the event.

That's where the staff and wards of O. H. Close and Chaderjian stepped

in. Sutter Memorial Hospital had contacted the theater asking for a performance for its pediatric ward and they were looking for someone to sponsor the presentation of a holiday production called "A New Work of Fantasy With A twist of St. Nick."

Without hesitation the staff and wards pitched in as part of their victim awareness program.

On Nov. 24 the holiday production moved to Sutter Memorial Hospital to perform for the children on the pediatric ward. This performance was underwritten by O. H. Close.

On Dec. 20, more than 75 children and their families from the Washington Neighborhood Center, the Children's Receiving Home and WEAVE attended a performance at the B. Street Theater, thanks in part to the contributions of the staff and wards of N.A. Chaderjian.

Why Do I Do It?

A Victim's Story of Impact Classes

When asked, "why did I do it? Why did I go into a prison in Pennsylvania in 1997 and subject myself to telling my kids' story?" I always answer the same way "I was only going to do it once."

I needed to tell the story of my kids' lives and their deaths. I needed to tell the story all the way through without someone interrupting me and asking questions or inquiring about how did I feel about it. I just knew that if I told my kids' story to inmates in a prison in the same state that our son-in-law was incarcerated in that, just by osmosis, he would get the message — the message of the hurt, pain and heartbreak that he had placed on our family.

Yes, I was only going to do it once. I still remember how nervous I was. My husband and I had worked very hard to put together a presentation that would tell the complete story. It was important that these men understood that crime has a far-reaching impact, that it goes way beyond just the perpetrator and the victim.

I had never been in a prison before. I needed to see what life was like. What did an inmate look like?!

As I began my kids' story I found

those dozen men all paying attention. As I continued with how their murders took place I found those dozen men not looking at me with glazed eyes but looking at me with interest. As my husband showed the video of the burnt out house that included the crib that our 7-month-old grandson was found in, the window that my daughter was trying to get help from, and the bed that our 3-year-old grandson was found hiding under, I saw those men with tears in their eyes.

As I ended my kids' story with the comment, "I can't go back and make things right. I can't change the past. But, I can make a new beginning if just one of you leaves this prison and doesn't raise their hand again, or pick up a gun again, then I've done honor to my kids' memory," I saw those dozen men shaking their heads in agreement. Just maybe they understood!

When it came time for the questions I found it very easy to answer them honestly because someone else's life might just depend on how I responded. Questions of concern, words of sympathy, comments on what they felt they could use from the story, questions on how they could get help

for a loved one with regard to domestic violence and so much more. Yes, I think my kids' story made a difference that day.

That "only once" has turned into many visitations to prisons along with being involved with training programs for those that instruct the "Impact of Crime" classes.

I think that I get just as much from the presentations as the inmates do. I've walked away from each presentation renewed with the hope that maybe one of the inmates present will take a little of my kids with them and always remember that crime involves so much more than the offender and the victim. The rippling effect just keeps rolling.

Yes, I was only going to do it once now it's my life's passion.

*Editor's note: **Pat Lupson** is the mother of a woman who died as a result of domestic violence. Her daughter **Gina** and two grandchildren, **Shaun** and **Joshua** were killed in a fire set by Gina's husband. Mrs. Lupson is active in victim impact classes and speaks on the issue, she also hosts a web site at www.g-s-j.org dedicated to her daughter and grandchildren.*



"A Mother's Love" is a pin designed by artist **Jan Hinton** of Art To Wear of Modesto, California.

Commissioned by the mother of Gina, and grandmother to Shaun and Joshua, the company designed the pin featuring a mother wearing a white gown and holding a baby, with a second young child near her leg. Made of ceramic clay, like the rest of the company's line, the pin is outlined in 22-karat gold.

The company was so touched just hearing the story of these three young people that they decided to include the pin in their 1999 line. The proceeds from the sale of the pin are donated, in the memory of Gina, Shaun and Joshua, to the Modesto Women's Haven House in Modesto. Just by telling her kids' story - women in California are benefiting from their deaths. For more information and stores in your area that will carry "A Mother's Love," call Art To Wear at (800) 545-4278.

VICTIMS' VOICES

"Although I have to live it daily, he's got to think about what he did at least once a month."

Victim, about receiving monthly restitution checks

"I have been told by doctors that I will never walk normally again and I will not be able to bear any children."

Victim of drunk driver

"We are members of a group no one else wants to belong to."

Members of Parents of Murdered Children (POMC)

"When I enter a room...I know where all the exits are."

Sexual assault victim/survivor

"Not only were they drinking and driving, but they had the audacity to run me over with the car and leave me there to die like road kill."

Victim of drunk driver

"My grandson begged me to give away his mother in the wedding ceremony.....weeks later he said he gave away his mom to a killer."

Mother of a domestic violence/homicide victim

"I take my kids to the doctor, they ask me to fill out forms, I put their father's name in the record. When I tell them he is dead, they cross him out. I know I shouldn't put his name there, but I can't seem to stop myself..."

Widow of a murder victim

Year-long Effort at O.H. Close

O. H. Close support for crime victims is a yearlong event.

Over the past 12 months the wards and staff of that institution have donated more than \$4,000 in cash contribution and items to San Joaquin area charities and victim organizations.

For example, last spring, **Tony Vegas**, parole agent I, coordinated six car-wash events with the help of wards from the Fresno Aide and Youth Boys Program. This effort raised \$850 for the Stockton Homeless Shelter. In November, wards and staff on Humboldt Hall held a pizza fundraiser and donated \$125 to Mothers of Murdered Children of Modesto.

In August wards from Butte Hall delivered hand-painted flowerpots to Family Ties, a support organization in the Stockton area. Then in September wards from the institution made a presentation to Sacramento County Probation Department and donated a baby stroller and \$150 worth of baby formula to Family Ties.

The following month a group of wards went to the Family Ties facility and did landscape and clean up work around the grounds. The wards and staff also help the families at the facility by judging a Halloween Contest.

The wards on Butte Hall again came through in October raising enough money to purchase a color TV for the Family Ties facility and to provide gift certificates for children's clothing.

Around the holidays the wards and

staff of O. H. Close were again very busy. Butte Hall participated in a community project that provided Christmas packages to the San Joaquin Women's Center. Other fundraisers included a hotdog sale, Burger King sales, and a See's Candy sale. The proceeds were donated at the end of the month to local charities.

Wards and staff continued their volunteer efforts into the new millennium as wards from Amador Hall donated educational gifts and toys to the Stockton Child Abuse Prevention Council. The wards on the hall adopted the Child Abuse Prevention Council as their non-profit organization and part of their Restorative Justice program. Since they first adopted that organization they have provided the council with things like outside swings, playpens, car seats, diapers, formula, toys and sand for a sandbox.

The Calaveras and Del Norte Treatment Teams have been committed to the ideals of Restorative Justice and have encouraged wards to take an active role in recognizing the importance of giving back to victims agencies that provide support services to victims of crime. The wards in these programs have done several things including decorating Halloween bags for children in area centers, conducting a canned food drive and raising more than \$1,500 for needy families in the community, and for terminally ill children being treated at Sutter Memorial Hospital.

ICV Instructor is on a Mission

Educating Society About Victim Issues is a mission for **Felicia Jones-Alford**.

The Fred C. Nelles Impact of Crime on Victims instructor, visits local high schools and at-risk youth groups around the Whittier institution to make presentations about the issues of victims rights and victimization.

Educating society about the impact of crime on victims is a step toward bringing the "Restorative Justice" model into focus for everyone, she said. "It is imperative that society know the devastation and destruction that is caused by violence if we are to expect full participation in our fight against crime and violence."

High schools and youth groups in the Whittier area often call Mrs. Alford to speak to civics and law classes, probation groups, parenting programs and even career days.

The Power of One

Leading Wards by Example

OPVS recognizes the hard work and dedication of many staff members throughout the department that support victims.

Recently, more institutions, camps and parole offices have turned to fundraising projects with the donations going to non-profit organizations. Still there are a few staff that continually go above and beyond their call of duty and deserve recognition. One such staff is O. H. Close Youth Correctional Facility Youth Correctional Counselor **Jane Echavarria**.

During 1999, YCC Echavarria was instrumental in various fundraisers in which more than \$8,000 was raised. This money was donated to numerous organizations, among them: San Joaquin Women's Center, Gateway Visitor's Center, Success By 6 and the Children's Ward at Sutter Memorial Hospital.

YCC Echavarria's dedication to Restorative Justice is contagious. The offenders often request to help her, and are always reminded about the importance of service.

"These offenders are all going to get out, we have the responsibility to offer them the chance to help others. If they get used to giving, maybe they'll be less likely to take," said YCC Echavarria.

YCC Echavarria is able to balance her restorative justice activities with all of her casework duties, as well as her responsibilities to her husband and six children. The Office of Prevention and Victims Services salutes Jane Echavarria.

Restorative Justice Law

By **Joyce Hayhoe**

Assistant Director, Legislation

On Sept. 7, 1999, Gov. **Gray Davis** signed AB 637, authored by Assemblywoman **Carole Migden**, which adopts the "Restorative Justice" model into the law defining the mission of the Department of the Youth Authority.

Prior to this bill, the Youth Authority Act stated that the mission of the YA was to protect society from the consequences of criminal activity and, to that end, training and treatment would be substituted for retributive punishment.

The new law amends this section to provide that in addition to offender training and treatment, community and victim restoration shall be part of the mission of the Department.

"Restorative Justice" which is also referred to as a "balanced approach" takes into consideration these three variables: (1) protection of the community, (2) restoration to the victim and the community, and (3) treatment and training of the offender. When these three objectives are met, the result is long-term public safety.

The "Restorative Justice" model for juvenile justice was one of the primary recommendations in the report, "California Task Force to Review Juvenile Crime and the Juvenile Justice Response." The report, published in September 1996, was the product of a bi-partisan task force created during the 1993-94 Legislative Session.

Victims Reach Us-Toll Free !

In an effort to reach as many victims as possible and reduce the possibility of causing further hardship, the Victims Services Division installed a toll free telephone number in January 1997.

The toll free number is **1-888-HE GOT CYA (1-888-434-6829)**

The number was established to provide information, referral and assistance to victims and their families, victim advocates and interested agencies. The phone is answered by Victims Services Division staff during regular working hours and limited bilingual services are available.

The toll free line is published in the "He Got CYA" booklet, appears on all correspondence with victims and is publicized at training conferences involving law enforcement, judges, educators and victim advocacy groups. Please feel free to give the phone number to anyone interested in information about services available for victims of juvenile offenders.

Important Phone Numbers

Director's Office

(916) 262-1469

Communications Office

(916) 262-1479

TDD

(916) 262-2913

(800) 735-2922

Safety Hotline

(800) 500-3730



Today

CALIFORNIA YOUTH AUTHORITY

CYA TODAY

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